

# POLAND

## OF TO-DAY





# P O L A N D   O F   T O - D A Y

## B A S I C   I N F O R M A T I O N





# POLAND OF TO-DAY

## BASIC INFORMATION



K S I A Ź K A i W I E D Z A  
W A R S Z A W A

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## GENERAL REVIEW

The most characteristic feature of the geography of Poland of to-day is the radical change in her frontiers after the end of the 1939-1945 war.

Poland's Eastern frontier was established by the Polish-Soviet agreement of 16th August, 1945 and follows, approximately, in accordance with the decisions of the Crimean Conference held on 11th February, 1945, the so-called "Curzon Line."

An agreement concerning the marking of the fixed and existing frontier (in accordance with the Potsdam decisions of 22nd August, 1945), on the Odra and Lusatian Nysa, was concluded on 6th of July, 1950, between People's Poland and the German Democratic Republic.

Poland has a broad access to the sea.

Implicit in the new borders were profound changes in the demographic, physical and economic structure of Poland.

Poland is now almost circular in shape and three quarters of its circumference are made up of natural borders.

The Western frontier of Poland, on the Odra and Lusatian Nysa, is situated on the site of the so-called "Lusatian Gate," which is the shortest distance between the Baltic and the Sudetan Mountains.

Poland is of considerable importance for transit traffic between the East and the West, and between Scandinavia and South-Eastern Europe.

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## GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF POLAND

From latitude  $54^{\circ} 50'$  to  $49^{\circ} 0'$  North = 649 km.

From longitude  $14^{\circ} 05'$  to  $24^{\circ} 19'$  East = 720 km.

Area 311,700 square km.

In area, Poland occupies the eighth place in Europe (after Finland, and before England and Italy).

Area of the Baltic Basin	311,400 square km.
consisting of:	.
The Vistula basin	174,300
The Odra basin	106,200
The Niemen basin	1,900

*Baltic Sea*





M S "Batory"



*On Mazurian lakes*

### *Frontiers*

Over-all length: 3,566 km. (in 1938 — 5,529 km.).

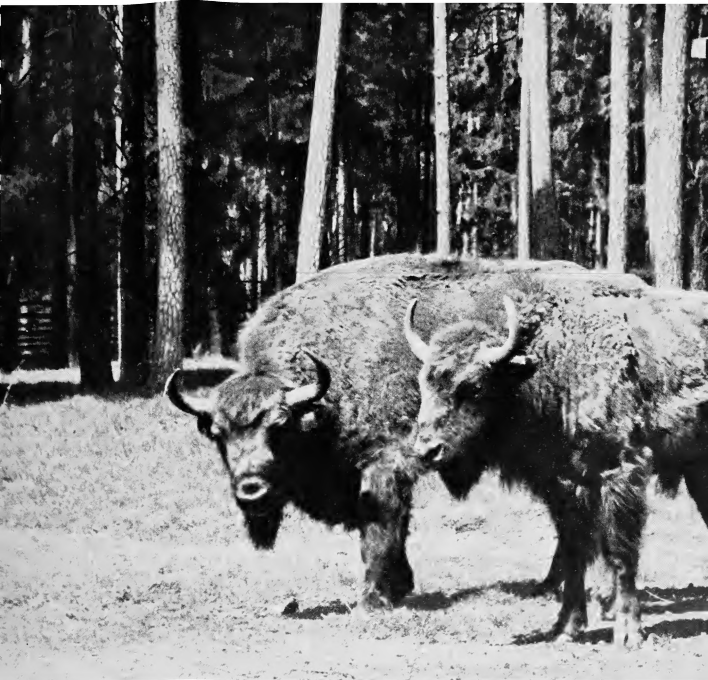
Continental frontiers: (Polish-USSR, Polish-Czechoslovak, Polish-German) about 3,070 km.

Maritime frontiers: 497 km. (in 1938 — 140 km.).

### *Natural zones*

The natural zones run parallel to lines of latitude:

1. The seaboard lowlands, including the mouth of the river Odra and the Vistula delta.



*Aurochs in Białowieża Forest*

2. The Baltic ridges, the area of lateral moraines, numerous lakes and elevations (The Kashubian Switzerland, the Wieżyca peak of 331 m. — 1,085 feet).

The lower course of the Vistula divides these regions into two parts, Western Pomerania to the West (Szczecin and Koszalin voivodships) and Mazovian Pomerania to the East (Olsztyn voivodship), comprising the former provinces of Warmia and Mazury, which in pre-war times made up the major part of East Prussia. Poor soil. Pisciculture developed.

3. The vast central lowlands called the lowlands of the "broad plains." Between the rivers of Warta and Odra (between the Provinces of Pomerania and Silesia) lies the Lubuska Area with its fertile soil, and Poznań Province, called Wielkopolska, situated in the valley of the middle section of the Warta, which is the historic cradle of the first Polish dynasty. The province of Kujawy stretches between the rivers Warta and Vistula. The Province of Mazowsze covers the valley of the central section of the Vistula. These areas are predominantly agricultural. To the East the surface gradually rises towards the Province of Podlasie, separated from Byelorussia by the remains of a virgin forest (Białowieża forest) with its National Reservation where are to be found the last specimens of aurochs in Europe.

4. The erosive zone. Along the South-West frontier of Poland run the Karkonosze Mountains (with the highest peak, Śnieżka 1,606 m. — 5,268 feet) stretching between the Lusatian Nysa, and the Kłodzka Nysa. Between the Kłodzka Nysa and the Upper Odra are situated the Sudeten mountains. The area has considerable mineral wealth, such as coal in Wałbrzych, copper, silver, arsenic, etc., and abounds in watering-places and numerous health resorts

#### *In Tatra Mountains*





affording mineral water springs. The particularly fertile Province of Wrocław lies to the North of these mountain ranges.

5. The Silesian highlands, rich in coal-seams, are situated to the South-East.

The Cracow Jura range and old massive range of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains rise above the North-Eastern area of Silesia. The highest peak is Łysica (611 m. — 2,004 feet). Here the mineral wealth is iron ore and copper.

The Lublin plateau, consisting of fertile calcareous clay, stretches on the other bank of the Vistula.

The areas lying at the foot of the Carpathians are intersected by the upper reaches of the Vistula. There is a whole complex of basins in the Cracow area which gradually widen out into the Oświęcim — Sandomierz section.

6. Along the South Eastern frontier of Poland runs the Northern Carpathian chain: the Beskidy, with the highest peak Babia Góra (1725 m. — 5,658 feet) at its Western edge.

*In Tatra Mountains (Zakopane, Kalatówki)*





*Pieniny Mountains. Three Crowns Peak*

The Tatra Mountains constitute the centre of that mountain range, the highest peak of which called Rysy (2,503 m. — 8,210 feet) is the loftiest in Poland. The other peaks are: Swinica (2,303 m. — 7,554 feet), Kasprowy Wierch (1,998 m. — 6,553 feet), Giewont (1,894 m. — 6,212 feet). The picturesque lake called Morskie Oko, situated in the mountains at an altitude of 1,400 m. — 4,592 feet, and the Zakopane valley, forming a part of the so-called Podhale, must also be mentioned.

The Western slopes of the Carpathians are rich in seams of rock salt (the richest salt mine is Wieliczka), and in the Eastern part, oil is extracted in Krosno and Jaslo.



*Krynica — Spa Hotel*

Poland abounds in numerous watering-places and health resorts scattered in various parts of the country: In the Carpathians Zakopane, Krynica, Szczawnica; in Lower Silesia - Karpacz, Kudowa, Duszniki; in Central Poland - Ciechocinek, Inowrocław, Busko: On the coast - Sopot, Jurata, Międzyzdroje.

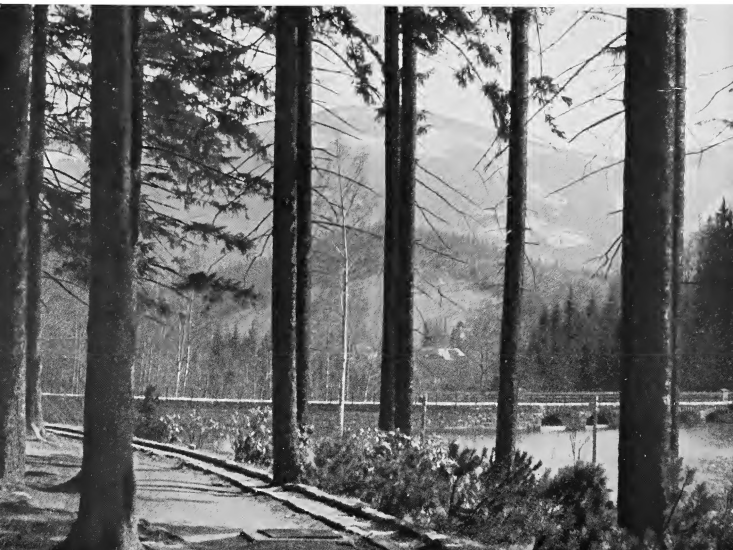
$\frac{4}{5}$  of Poland is made up of plains, and  $\frac{1}{5}$  of mountainous areas.

The area of Poland originates for the most part, from the fourth diluvial period, the post-glacial; the soil is of poor quality, principally suitable for the cultivation of rye and potatoes. There are nevertheless in this country, lovely alluvial valleys at the foot of the mountains, with fertile soil suitable for the cultivation of wheat.



*In Karkonosze Mountains*

*In Karkonosze Mountains (Karpacz)*



Poland's network of waterways, linking the mining and industrial Southern part of the country with the Northern coast, is of a most harmonious character. The basins of the Vistula and the Odra (the greater part of which is situated on Polish territory) can be linked by means of short canals. This represents a system of navigation which was not developed in pre-war Poland, but which in the future will play an important role in the economy of Poland.

### *Rivers*

The Vistula - 1,092 km. - flows through Cracow, Warsaw, Plock, Włocławek, Toruń and Grudziądz to Gdańsk.

The most important tributaries from the West are: Pilica — 314 km. and Brda which flows through Bydgoszcz.

The most important tributaries from the East are: Dunajec — 207 km.; San — 413 km.; Wieprz — 312 km.; Bug — 814 km. prolonged by Narew — 438 km.; Wkra — 204 km.; Drwęca — 245 km.

The Odra rises in Czechoslovakia (903 km), it flows through Opole, Brzeg, Wrocław, Głogów, Kostrzyń and Szczecin.

Its main tributaries from the East are: Warta — 761 km., flowing through Częstochowa, Poznań and Gorzów; the tributary of the Warta is Noteć — 440 km.

The most important tributaries from the West are: Kłodzka Nysa — 195 km., Bobrowa — 268 km., flowing past Jelenia Góra; Lusatian Nysa — 225 km., flowing past Zgorzelec.



*The Vistula*

### *Canals*

Bydgoszcz Canal, links the Vistula with the Odra through Noteć and Brda.

Gliwice Canal.

A Canal linking Lake Gopło with the Warta (opened in November 1949).

Augustów Canal, linking the Vistula with the Niemen.

Canals interlinking the Mazurian Lakes.

Warmia Canal, links the lakes in the region of Ostruda with the Baltic Sea.



### *Lakes*

The Baltic plateau (in particular Mazovian Pomerania) is dotted with lakes of which the most important are: Sniardwy — 122 square km., maximum depth 25 m. — 82 feet, and Mamry — 104 square km., depth 38 m. — 124 feet.

The deepest lake in Poland is Wigry in the vicinity of Białystok (58 m. — 190 feet), and the most famous is Lake Gopło through which flows the river Noteć. Legends concerning the earliest days of the Polish State are connected with this Lake.



## POPULATION

Before details of the population in Poland are given, the great war time losses of population must be emphasized.

In consequence of the nazi aggression, Poland lost 6 million of her citizens, that is:

644,000 as a direct result of hostilities (123,000 soldiers and 521,000 civilians).

5,384,000 in death camps, prisons, "pacification activity," by liquidation of the Ghettos, etc.

The population of Poland amounts to 24 million (census of 14th February 1946).

Density of population: 77 inhabitants per 1 square km. In 1938 the rural population amounted to 64.5%. In 1955, after the realization of the Six-Year Plan, the percentage of the urban population will increase to 52.9%.

Men — 11 million; Women — 13 million;

Inhabitants under 18 years of age (36%) — 9 million;

Between 18 and 59 years of age (55%) — 13 million;

Over 60 years of age (9%) — 2 million.

The number of people employed in the socialized sector, excluding agriculture, amounted to 3,600,000 in 1949 and will increase to 5,700,000 by 1955.



*Warsaw — Place of Execution by Hitlerites of Heroes of the Resistance Movement*

As regards nationality, Poland is at present a country with a uniform population. The number of foreigners is insignificant.

A few words should be said about the splendid progress in populating the Western Territories.

The Germans who were repatriated to Germany, were replaced by: 1. Poles repatriated from the USSR; 2. Poles returning from other countries in Europe; 3. Poles from the over-populated agricultural districts, or from the ruined cities.

*The Monument of Ghetto Heroes*



### *Densely populated areas*

In the lead is Upper Silesia, a highly industrialized area having in urban agglomerations 3,000 persons per square kilometre.

The following areas are also densely populated:

The industrial area between Wrocław and Karkonosze, the provinces of Warsaw, of Łódź, the delta of the Vistula, the area lying at the mouth of the Odra, Poznań province and the environs of the waterway near Bydgoszcz.

As regards the distribution of the rural population, the average density of population in the areas lying South of Częstochowa and Kielce is over 120 inhabitants per square kilometre of arable land. Most sparsely inhabited are the Baltic heights and the region of the Mazurian lakes.

To summarize, it can be stated that the most densely populated zone lies in the centre of Poland running from North to South.

### *Main cities*

Warsaw's population:

1,350,000	In 1939
162,000	Immediately after liberation
378,000	In May 1945
486,000	In 1946
542,000	In 1947
607,000	In 1948
628,000	In 1949
642,000	On 1st January 1950







*Warsaw - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, 1945*

The year 1949 constituted a turning point from reconstruction to planned construction which will give to Warsaw the character of a capital of a socialist State. Towards the close of the Six-Year Plan the population of Warsaw, within the present boundaries, will amount to 800,000. Warsaw will become an important industrial centre. The striking contrasts in the living conditions of the population will be liquidated. The workers' families will occupy flats in the centre of the capital formerly reserved for the privileged wealthy classes. In conformity with the comfortable living conditions, there will be established, to serve the material and cultural needs of the population, various facilities such as general stores, baths, crèches, kindergartens, sport-grounds, recreation clubs, cultural centres, libraries, cinemas, theatres, etc.



*Warsaw — East-West Thoroughfare*

*Warsaw The Silesian-Dąbrowa Bridge*







Warsaw — Łazienki Park

*Other cities of more than 50,000 inhabitants*

(inhabitants in thousands)

Lodz	600	Częstochowa	116
Cracow	307	Lublin	114
Poznań	305	Gdynia	114
Wrocław	302	Sosnowiec	91
Gdańsk	176	Wałbrzych	82
Szczecin	175	Toruń	77
Katowice	169	Radom	77
Bydgoszcz	154	Białystok	61
Chorzów	138	Kielce	58
Zabrze	127	Wrocław	54
Gliwice	124	Kalisz	54
Bytom	117		

(1949 statistical data)

*Cracow — Wawel Castle*



*Szczecin — Voivodship Office*





*Gdańsk — Reconstruction of City Hall*





*Poznań — Red Army Avenue*

*Wrocław — The Edifice of Voivodship Office*





*Zamość — A Renaissance City Hall*

### *Poles abroad*

Repressive measures adopted in Poland in the wake of the national insurrections and revolutions (in 1830, 1848, 1863, 1905) brought about a large scale emigration. In this manner, centres of Polish nationals arose in numerous foreign countries.

Thus the ground was prepared for a new influx of Poles forced by poverty to leave their own country.

In the period following the First World War (1914-1918), this emigration was on a considerable scale, since pre-war Poland failed to assure a living for many of her citizens.

At a time when want and unemployment have been liquidated in the People's Poland, tens of thousands of Poles, today come back to their People's Fatherland.

### *Repatriates from France*





## ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

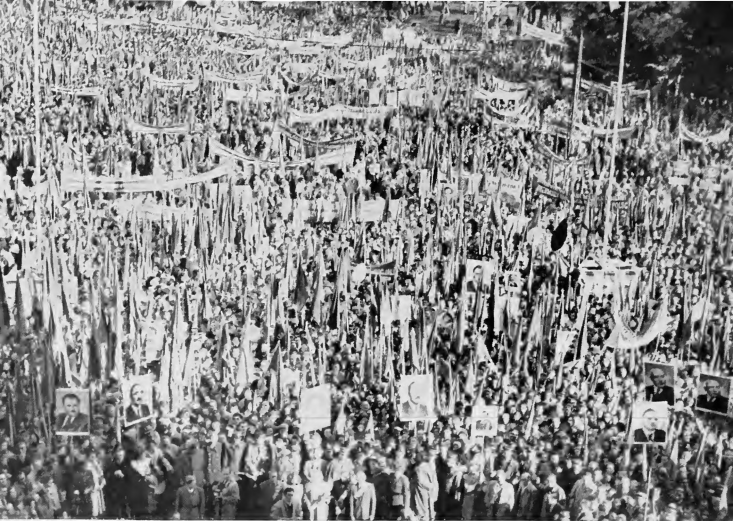
Poland is divided into provinces called voivodships (województwo).

The cities of Warsaw and Lodz are assimilated to voivodships.

In addition to these two there are 17 voivodships: the Katowice, Wrocław, Szczecin, Koszalin, Gdańsk, Olsztyn, Białystok, Zielona Góra, Poznań, Warsaw, Lublin, Łódź, Kielce, Opole, Cracow, Rzeszów and Bydgoszcz.

*Sejm Hall*





*Demonstration during Peace Congress*

Towns of over 25,000 inhabitants are also independent administrative units (districts). The total number of such administrative units, including these towns, amounts to 299. These administrative units are made up of urban communities (towns of less than 25,000 inhabitants) and rural communities. The number of such communities exceeds 3,700. The rural communities are in turn composed of villages and settlements.

The administrative reform introduced in March 1950 endows the elected people's councils (urban, district and voivodship) with a broad competence; simultaneously the district and voivodship head officials (*starosta* and *wojewoda*), formerly appointed, are replaced by elected officials.

## ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Following her liberation Poland rejected the fascist Constitution of 1935 and re-introduced, after having supplemented it



*Building of the Central Trade Union Council*

with a number of fundamental new provisions, the Constitution of 17th March 1921.

Pending the enactment of a new constitution, consistent with the new historic conditions, the constitutional law of Poland is based on: the 1921 constitution mentioned above; the July Manifesto of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, dated 22nd July, 1944; the laws concerning people's councils, which constitute one of the foundations of the regime of People's Democracy, the law concerning the election of the President of the Polish Republic; and the constitutional law, called the "Little Constitution," dated 19th February 1947.

The Legislative Sejm is comprised of 444 deputies, over 25 years of age, elected for a term of 5 years by general, direct, secret and proportional ballot, by all citizens, both men and women, including those on military service, who are not under 21 years of age. The Deputies are vested with the rights and privileges traditionally related to their functions.

The Sejm has 19 Committees. The Sejm is responsible for electing for a term of 7 years, by a majority of two thirds of the votes, the President of the Polish Republic.

The President nominates the Head of the Government from among the majority deputies of the Sejm.

The Government holds its sessions as a Council of Ministers or as the Cabinet Council.

The Council of Ministers may pass decrees with force of laws only during parliamentary vacations.

For the enactment of laws concerning financial matters, conscription, cadres, monetary problems, ratification of international agreements, establishment of economic plans, etc., the Sejm may not delegate its powers.

A new body, the Council of State, which is an executive organ, elected by the Sejm (Parliament), and presided over by the President of the Polish Republic, has been brought into being in People's Poland.

The Council of State is the highest instance of the People's Councils. Justice is administered by the independent Courts.

## ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHANGES

The starting point for the construction and consolidation of the socialist economy took the form of the great reforms introduced immediately after the war: the agrarian reform, the socialization of the heavy and medium industries, and the development of the co-operative movement.

The agrarian reform eliminated the features of the former Poland ruled by the great land owners. It liquidated all those land estates the area of which exceeded, dependent on the kind of soil, from

*May Day in Warsaw*



50 to 100 hectares, and distributed about 7,300,000 hectares among 900,000 families of farm labourers, poor peasants and others.

As a result of the outstanding assistance rendered by the Government, the Polish rural areas were able rapidly to rehabilitate themselves after the devastations caused by the war. The living standard of the peasants has been raised considerably above that of the pre-war period.

An ever increasing number of small and medium size farmers have become conscious that, in order to secure their own well-being and the development of agricultural production, it is essential to introduce the system of collective economy in the producer co-operatives.

The first producer co-operatives were established in 1948, and their number, reaching 240 in 1949, exceeded the figure of 1,300 by the middle of 1950. The Six-Year Plan will create further favourable conditions for the development of the producer co-operatives in the rural areas.

In addition to the individual and co-operative agricultural farms, there are also State Agricultural Farms which are distinguished by their superior methods of land cultivation and by the degree of mechanization of farm work; they present a model of socialist economy.

## SOCIALIZATION OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

All factories employing over 50 hands have, in principle, been socialized; all the heavy and medium industries have become the property of the State.

The great transport enterprises and credit societies have been socialized. A considerable simultaneous development of the co-operative movement has been commenced.

Following the introduction of all these reforms, the implementation of the Three-Year Plan of Economic Rehabilitation was commenced and was brought to a successful conclusion ahead of schedule in 1949.

The Six-Year Plan has been launched in 1950, the realization of which will make it possible to overcome during the period 1950 to 1955, the country's economic backwardness, which is of many years standing, and to create the foundations of socialism in Poland.

In order to pave the way to socialism and to make impossible the restoration of capitalism, People's Democracy gradually ousts from economic life all capitalist elements both in towns and in rural areas, at the same time transforming small scale economy into collective economy.

The share of the total industrial production for which the socialized sector is responsible, has developed from 86% in 1946 to 94% in 1949.

*"Youth on the March"*



Practically the whole of the wholesale trade, and 70% of the retail trade have, in the year 1950, been taken over by the State and the co-operative sector. Towards the end of the Six-Year Plan, the share of private interests in retail trade will constitute only an insignificant percentage.

The rapid rate of development and reconstruction is an achievement which Poland owes to her new economic structure and to social and political reforms which have enabled the control of the State and the fundamental means of production to be taken over by the working masses headed by the working class. The result of those transformations is a new, socialist relation to work, expressed in the ever increasing development of output emulation, rationalization of work, new inventions and introduction of new methods by the workers, who are conscious that both the increased productivity of their work, and the savings achieved by them, will contribute to the well-being not of capitalist profiteers, but of themselves and of the entire society.



## SOCIAL REFORMS

Work safety and hygiene. People's Poland inherited factory premises and workshops in a state of complete devastation. The State has, however succeeded, with the close collaboration of the Trade Unions, in considerably improving, within a short period, the conditions of work safety and hygiene. For instance, in 1949 the accident indices in the mining industry fell, as compared to the pre-war period, for fatal accidents by 40%, for accidents leading to particularly heavy injuries by 90%, and for those causing heavy injuries by 80%.

Health insurance has been extended to all categories of workers, including farm labourers, who were deprived in the pre-war period of medical care. Insurance contributions are fully covered by the employers, and there are no limitations on the period of medical treatment. Sickness benefit (70% of wages) is paid from the very first day of sickness. The benefit paid to women on childbirth amounts to 100% of their wages, while maternity leave has been extended from 8 to 12 weeks. The number of insured workers is more than double that of the pre-war period despite the reduction by almost 10 million in the total population of the country. In 1938, there were 2,132,000 people insured, and in 1949 - 4,820,000.

Medical Treatment. An annual average of 1,500 people were treated before the war in sanatoriums and health resorts; in 1949 that figure was raised to 15,000.

The number of hospital beds, which amounted to 20 for each 10,000 inhabitants in 1938, was increased to 36 in 1949, and will be 48 by 1955.

A great achievement of the people's masses in Poland is the worker's holiday action (for rest, for prophylactic purposes, for recuperation, for mother and child, for young people, etc.) embracing hundreds of thousands of the working people.

Special stress is laid on large scale development of sports, which has been achieved by the creation of sports circles in places of work, and of sports teams in the rural areas. The number of young people associated in sport clubs is five times greater than in the pre-war period.



*Factory Crèche in a Warsaw Streets Factory*

Woman in People's Poland is placed on an equal footing with man. Her role in the political and economic life of the State is continually developing. The share of women in the socialized sector is increasing daily, and, excluding agriculture, will reach 33.5% in 1955, as compared to 29.1% in 1949. In the bringing up of children the State assists women through the provision of crèches. The number of children accommodated, which in the pre-war period amounted to 700, is at present rapidly growing and will reach 52,000 in 1955.

The Trade Unions, combining in their ranks over 4 million working people, co-operate with the State authorities in improving the material well-being and the cultural level of the working masses.

The Polish Youth Union with its million membership, the "Service to Poland" organization and, for the smaller children, the Polish Pioneers' Organization, are engaged in youth education.



*Youth Culture House (Warsaw)*

## CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite terrible war losses, cultural and educational establishments alike are rapidly being rehabilitated in Poland.

About 24% of the 1950 budget is appropriated for education.

<i>Education (1950)</i>	<i>Pupils</i>
Kindergartens	343,000
Seven-grade basic primary schools	2,570,000
Lyceums	220,000
Technical professional schools	364,480
Higher schools	110,725

*Krynica — Vacation Home "Związkowiec" (Tradeunionist)*



Of 81 higher schools existing in 1950, there are several of an academic character, such as universities, polytechnic schools, medical academies, etc., and schools of a vocational character, such as higher engineering schools, and schools of economics, music, drama, etc.

Attention in this connection, is directed to the following:

1. Educational reform which has introduced:
  - a) free tuition in all State schools,
  - b) compulsory school attendance between the ages of 7 and 14,
  - c) Fourteen additional off-duty hours a week, without deduction from pay for every working minor, who is continuing his studies,
  - d) a new-type 11-grade school embracing primary and secondary tuition.

*Reading Room at Academy of Political Science*



2. Struggle against illiteracy. The illiteracy which, in the shape of 2 million people, was inherited as a legacy from pre-war Poland, is being systematically diminished. In 1949, for instance, 491,500 illiterate people were taught at 28,000 courses to read and write. In 1950, 750,000 illiterate people will be taught the rudiments of reading and writing, and in 1951 illiteracy will be completely eradicated.

3. Development of the network of schools: A million children were unable in the pre-war period to attend school, while at present all children of school age attend school.

4. Social composition changes in schools. In pre-war days those who attended general education schools included only 15% of worker and peasant youth, while the proportion of such pupils is now 55%. Fifty eight per cent of the freshmen in the higher schools in 1949-50 were from worker and peasant families, and in 1955 that proportion will be increased to 70%.

5. Adult education. There are 2,000 schools giving education to 220,000 adults. Particular stress is laid on the development of such education in places of work in the State Agricultural Farms for instance, in the production co-operatives, etc. The object of these schools is to facilitate social promotion for workers and peasants. For instance, in the 3-year School of Social Work, the graduates of which are entitled to continue their studies in the higher schools, there are 74% of workers and 24% of small income farmers in a total of 3,400 students.



*Vocational High-School*



*A School Laboratory*

The number of scientific libraries reaches 654. The most important among them are: Warsaw University — 1,125,000 volumes, the National Library in Warsaw — 959,000 volumes, Wrocław University — 894,000 volumes, Jagiellonian University in Cracow — 709,000 volumes.

Polish libraries suffered greatly from the ravages of the Nazi occupants.

Museums. There are 129 Museums which were also plundered.

There are 73 theatres, including 52 for drama and youth, 7 for music, and 14 for puppet shows.





*Course for Illiterates*

**Music.** Poland has 4 operas and 15 large symphonic orchestras.

The Trade Unions extend their care to 7,670 amateur dramatic teams, choruses, ballets, etc. embracing a total of 191,000 amateurs.

Film production has already won distinction with a number of documentary films, which have taken prizes at several international festivals, and with such feature films as "The Last Stage" (Oświęcim Camp), "Border Street" (Ghetto Insurrection), and so on.

There are in Poland 503 stable municipal cinemas (in 1955 this number will be raised to 789). The number of mobile cinemas, which gave in 1949 over 67,000 performances – including 51,000 in the rural-areas – is continually increasing. The Six-Year Plan provides for a 22-fold increase in stable cinemas, that is to 3,300 in the rural areas.



*People's Art Festival*

Recreation Clubs and Cultural Centres play an important part in the education of a socialist society. In every Cultural Centre there is a theatrical hall, a studio for amateur artists, a library, reading-room, a cinema, etc. In 1949 the number of recreation clubs reached 15,500 and of Cultural Centres and Clubs 77.

The total number of non-periodical publications (including books) printed in 1949 amounted to 73 million, as compared to 37 million in 1937. A 91 % increase in the publication of books and pamphlets is provided for in the Six-Year Plan.

Press: The combined circulation of daily papers amounted, in 1938, to 550,000 copies, and in 1949 that figure was raised to 3,845,000.

Radio: The number of radio-subscribers provided for in the Six-Year Plan will increase from 1,175,000 in 1949 to 3,200,000.

## ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

From a material point of view, the devastations caused by the hostilities in Poland amounted to 38% of the total value of the national wealth in 1939. Details are:

Industry — 33%, agriculture — 35%, forestry — 28%, transport — 50%, communications — 62%, trade — 65%, residential buildings — 30%, cultural property and works of art — 43%, schools and scientific institutes — 63%, health service — 55%, public administration — 60%, military installations — 100%.

By the execution of the Three-Year Plan of Rehabilitation, the national income per capita reached, towards the end of 1949, 180% of the pre-war figure.

*Self-propelled Combine*



The Six-Year Plan of building the foundations of socialism was commenced on the 1st of January 1950. The main task of the Six-Year Plan is an extensive development of industry, and in particular the manufacture of means of production. The Six-Year Plan will transform Poland into one of the most highly industrialized countries in Europe. The standard of living will improve by 50-60% as compared to 1949. The national income per capita will be raised, as has been already mentioned, from 180% in 1949, to 264% in 1955.

## AGRICULTURE

Agricultural property was devastated to the extent of 35% of its 1939 value. Twenty per cent of all farms were destroyed, 3,500,000 hectares of arable land had been mined and dotted with fortifications.

The losses in livestock amounted to about 40% of the horses and about 66% of milking-cows.

Although the Three-year Plan did not provide for such a rapid tempo of development in agriculture as in industry, the yield per hectare was raised through improving methods of soil cultivation, and as early as 1948 the pre-war harvests of corn per capita were improved upon. While, after the liberation there were 7942 thousand hectares of fallow land which constituted about 50% of the total area of arable land, as a result of the implementation of the 3-year plan the problem of fallows was practically solved.

The expansion of the socialized sector and the considerable development of mechanized methods of cultivation provided for in the Six-Year Plan, will contribute to a further improvement in agricultural output. The supply of agricultural machinery to the rural areas will be considerably increased within the period of the Six-Year Plan. The supplies of artificial fertilizers will be increased by 127% as compared to 1948/49, that means that they will be six times greater than in the twenty years before the war.



*Horses on a State Farm*

During the period from the liberation of Poland to 1949, 11,450 villages and rural settlements were supplied with electricity, which is double that which was achieved during the twenty years between the wars.

Simultaneously with the development of agriculture, a rapid growth in livestock breeding was achieved within the period of the Three-Year Plan, especially in 1949 when a special livestock raising campaign was initiated.

In spite of the heavy losses suffered among livestock during the war, supplies of meat and fat to the population have been improved, so that, beginning from the 1st of January 1949, it became possible to abolish all food rationing in Poland.

The Polish population consumes (at the end of 1949) 31 % more wheat flour than in the pre-war period, 45 % more pork meat and 53 % more sugar.



*On a State Farm Pasture*

*Agricultural production*

*Index of growth of agricultural production value per capita of agricultural population:*

1938	1949	1955
100	143	219

*Crops (in millions of quintals)*

	1946	1949	1955
Wheat	6	18	28
Rye	27.6	68	69
Barley	6.7	10	19.6
Oats	10	23	28
Potatoes	187	309	398
Sugar beet	30	48	78

*Livestock (in millions of heads)*

	1946	1949	1955
Horses	1.7	2.5	3
Horned cattle	3.9	6.4	9.5
Pigs	2.7	6.1	10.5
Sheep	0.7	1.6	3.8
Poultry	19	78	105.7

*Fishery*

Within the period of the Three-Year Plan, sea fisheries provided the national economy with 145,300 tons of fish, as compared to 1938, when it amounted to 12,520 tons.

*Forests*

Forests cover 22.5% of the total area of Poland. The extent of war devastations amounted to 28% of the total value of timber.

Within the period covered by the Three-Year Plan, 348,100 hectares were afforested.

## INDUSTRY

Industrial property suffered war losses to the extent of 33% and commercial property to 65%.

The major part of the rehabilitation called for by this tremendous degree of devastation was effected within the period of the Three-Year Plan, the main task of which was a vital development of industrial production.

In a number of sectors (electrical energy, coal, cement and steel) the production per capita was in 1949 double or even treble that of the pre-war period.

During the period of the Three-Year Plan, an essential turning point was passed on the road to transforming Poland from an agricultural-industrial into an industrial-agricultural country.

The Six-Year Plan provides for a further tremendous development in industry. The level of industrial production which in 1949 increased by 150% as compared to 1938, will reach in 1955 a figure five times higher per capita than that of 1938.





*Colliery*

### *Mineral wealth*

Coal is the principal source of Poland's wealth. The coal contained in Polish soil is estimated at about 80,000,000,000 tons, and of brown coal at 18,000,000,000 tons. The two coal basins:

1. The Silesia - Dąbrowa basin covers the coal regions of Dąbrowa, Katowice, Chorzów, Ruda Śląska, Bytom, Zabrze, Gliwice, Rybnik, Mikołów and the Western part of the Cracow Province.
2. The Lower - Silesian basin consists of coal mines in Wałbrzych and Nowa Ruda.

Owing to improved methods of work and to gradual mechanization, work productivity in the coal mines has greatly improved.

As a coal producer, Poland occupies the fourth place in Europe and the fifth in the world, and as a coal exporter a foremost position in Europe (the average monthly exports amounted to 2,287,300 tons in 1949).

Brown coal is extracted in the Poznań Province (near Konin), in Lower Silesia, in Mazovia and in the mines of the Third Continental Period in Upper Silesia.

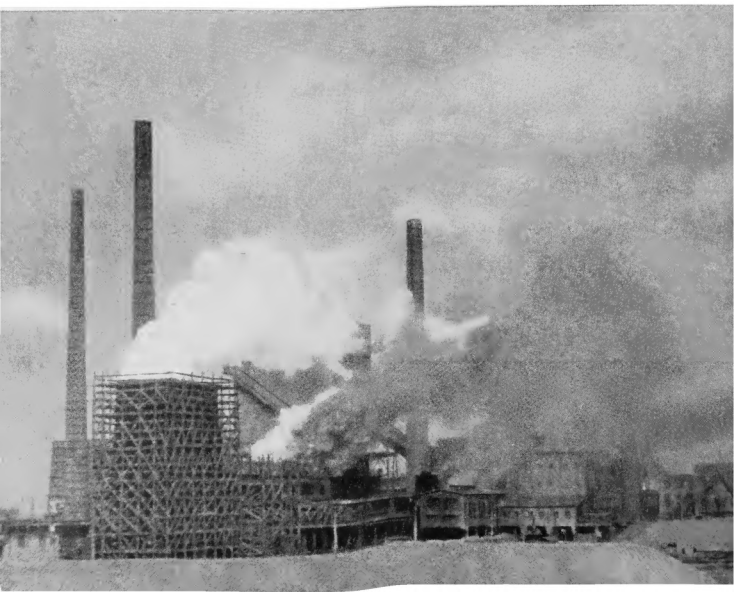
Rock oil is found in the South-Eastern Part of Poland, with principal centres at Jasło and Krosno.

Metal ores. Tin and lead mines are situated in Upper Silesia.

Iron ore is found in the neighbourhood of Częstochowa, and also, in the shape of pyrites, in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, in the Kielce Province.

Lower Silesia has copper and nickel mines and small quantities of arsenic and gold.

*Coke Kiln*





### *Other minerals*

Layers of rock salt abound South of Cracow (in Wieliczka and Bochnia) and in the upper valley of the river Noteć.

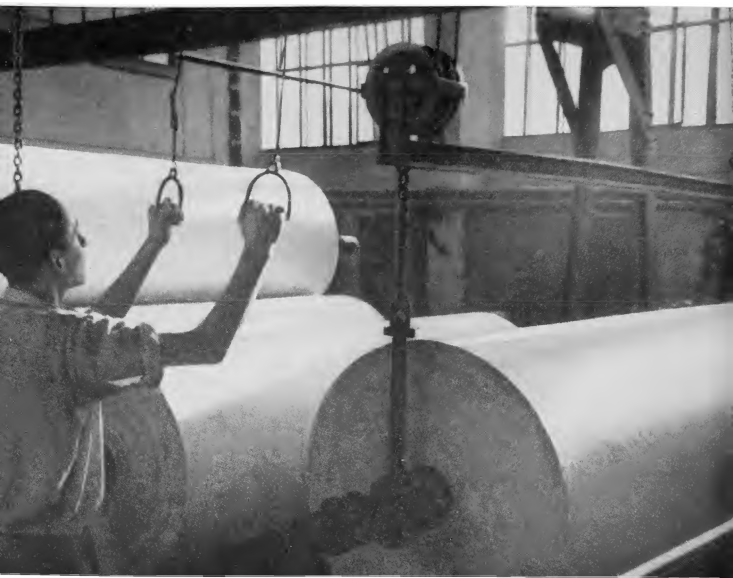
Phosphates appear in the confluence of the rivers Vistula and San.

The principal stone quarries are situated in Silesia, along the course of the upper part of the Vistula, and along the range of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, and of the line of the river San.

### *Industrial Districts*

Upper Silesia	- coal mines foundries, casting works, machine construction, chemical industry.
Lodz Centre	- textile industry.
Warsaw Centre	- machine assembly, foodstuffs, ready-made clothing.
Kielce Centre	- machine assembly.
Sudeten slopes	- textile industry, glass foundries, optical goods and high precision instruments.

### *Paper Mill*





*Granite Quarry*

Wrocław, Poznań – machine assembly.  
Białystok – textile industry.  
Gdańsk, Szczecin – shipbuilding.

### *Industrial production*

(Figures for 1949.)

### *Electric energy*

The majority are thermal power generating stations producing 8,300,000,000 kwh. (in 1955 19,300,000,000 kwh., that is per capita a sixfold increase on the pre-war figure).

### *Metal industry and mining*

Coal: 74,100,000 tons (in 1955 100,000,000, that is an increase per capita of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times as compared to 1938).

Coke: 5,757,300 tons (in 1955 the all-over production will be raised by 73%).

Raw steel: 2,300,000 tons (in 1955 4,600,000 tons, that is 4 times more per capita than in 1938).

Under the Six-Year Plan, a huge foundry “Nowa Huta” the production of which will amount to 1,500,000 tons, will be built near Cracow.

The extraction of iron ore will be increased 4 times within the period of the Six-Year Plan and will reach 3,000,000 tons in 1955.

The production of locomotives in 1938 amounted to 28 units and of freight cars – 600. The Six-Year Plan provides for the construction of 315 locomotives and 18,800 freight cars in 1955.

Motor cars were not produced in pre-war Poland. Under the Three-Year Plan the production of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ton lorries, type “Star 20,” was commenced. In 1955, the output of lorries will reach 25,000 units and of motor cars 12,000.

No tractors, either, were produced in pre-war Poland. The number of tractors in 1955 will reach 11,000 as against 2,512 in 1949.

Chemical industry. Under the Six-Year Plan, this industry will be expanded  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times as compared to 1949. The foundation



will be laid for an organic synthetics' industry and for an artificial raw materials industry, heretofore non-existent in Poland.

The output of artificial fertilizers amounted to 150,100 tons in 1949. Under the Six-Year Plan it will be trebled.

	1949	1955
Cotton fabrics:	397.6 million metres	607.7 million metres
Woollen fabrics:	49 „	74.9 „ „
Silk fabrics:	43.7 „ „	103.9 „ „
Leather footwear:	8 million pairs	22.2 million pairs
Cement:	2,300,000 tons	4,900,000 tons
Paper:	264,500 tons	530,000 tons
Sugar:	745,300 tons	1,100,000 tons

*Wieliczka — Salt Mine*





## TRANSPORT

### *Railways*

The Polish railways suffered considerable losses during the war, specifically:

2500 locomotives  
6200 passenger coaches  
83600 freight cars.

About 48 km. of railway bridges and about 20 million cubic metres of railway buildings, out of a total area of 52 million cubic metres, were destroyed.

Poland has 26,165 km. of railway lines which make up the state railway network owned by the Polish State Railways.

### *Railway transport*

	1938	1949	1955
Goods traffic in millions of tons	78.5	140.2	245.0
(Index of increase)	100	179	312
Passenger traffic in millions of people	227.5	487.8	910
(Index of increase)	100	214	400

These figures represent a fourfold increase in goods traffic and a fivefold increase in passenger traffic in 1955 as compared to the 1938 figures.

### *Road Network*

Roads suffered terribly during the hostilities (out of a total of 260 bridges, 135 were destroyed).

The total length of highways amounts to 97,000 km. A fine motor road runs across Lower Silesia. Despite Poland's considerable backwardness in this respect, she is rapidly developing her motor traffic, and owns at present twice as many motor vehicles as in the pre-war period. Motor transport is organized by the state enterprise called P. K. S. (Polish Motor Communication).

Under the Six-Year Plan there will be built 6,500 km. of new roads and 4,000 km. will be resurfaced. 65,000 running metres of bridges will be constructed and reconstructed.

### *Waterways*

Poland has about 5,000 km. of natural waterways and 212 km. of canals. All the river shipping, which was either sunk or taken away during the war, had to be constructed from scratch.

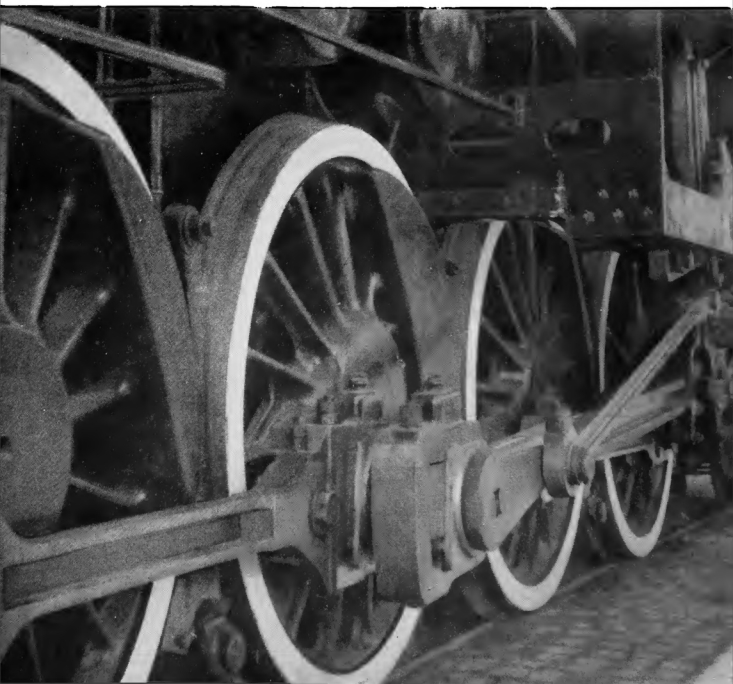
The Six-Year Plan provides, as compared to 1949 figures, for a 104% increase in the waterway traffic on the Odra and the Vistula. The main investment in waterways under the Six-Year Plan will be the construction of the first section of a waterway connecting the Odra with the Dnieper.

### *Ports*

In 1945, Poland took over 500 km. of sea coast in a state of utter devastation.

The ports of Gdańsk and Gdynia, 25 km. apart, are treated at present as one great port complex, which satisfies the requirements of the greater part of Polish trade.

The importance of Szczecin is increasing daily, and this port will soon reach the present tonnage of Gdańsk-Gdynia. Szczecin, a port lying at the mouth of the Odra, specializes in the trans-loading of heavy goods, and will, undoubtedly, become a great European coal port, while the activities of Gdańsk-Gdynia will be devoted to handling perishable goods. Czechoslovakia has a free zone in Szczecin.



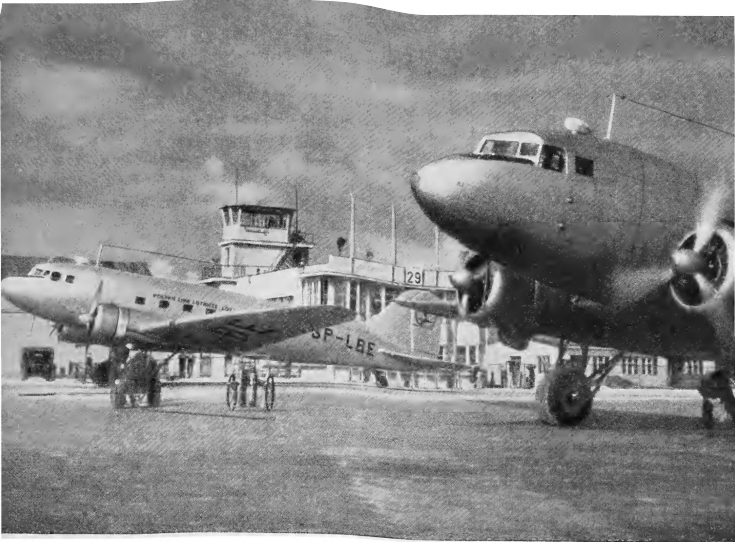


*Port View*

*Trade turnover in thousands of tons  
(average monthly turnover)*

1938	1,358
1947	891
1948	1,383
1949	1,408

The number of merchant marine units will be increased by 186%. Sea-going vessels of a total tonnage of 577,600 T. D. W. will be constructed (Poland has to-day her own shipbuilding yards).



*Civil Airport in Warsaw*

### *Air lines*

Polish air-lines are operated by the State Company "LOT". Aeroplanes and air-ports were completely destroyed during the war.

There are in Poland 8 permanent air services, connecting Warsaw with the main economic and cultural centres, inter-connecting those centres, and 9 international air services.

	1938	1949
Passenger traffic on the Polish airlines	35,400	73,800

An increase in passenger traffic amounting to 95% is planned to be achieved by 1955.



*The Mazurian Canal*

*Mountain Highroad in Beskides*





*Poznań International Fair*

## FOREIGN TRADE

Trade turnover (in millions of roubles)

1938	1949
2,848	5,006

*Percentage of imports and exports*

Imports	1938	1949
Raw materials and semi-finished goods	64.3	66.3
Capital goods	19.2	21.1
Consumer goods	16.5	12.6
Exports		
Raw materials and semi-finished goods	73.3	64.9
Capital goods	1.2	2.4
Consumer goods	25.5	32.7

The successful development of Poland's foreign trade is mainly due to the support of the USSR. The realization of the Six-Year Plan rests to a considerable extent on the commercial treaty signed in June 1950 with the USSR. The share of the USSR and the countries of People's Democracy in Polish foreign trade, is continually on the increase. This share amounted in 1949 to 44 %, in 1950 it will rise to 55 %, and in 1955 to 68 %.

Poland stands for the development of trade with all the countries of the world, provided that both parties are on a footing of absolute equality.

Poland has so far concluded commercial agreements with 26 countries.

